



Rule on Work Zone Safety and Mobility

**The Policy
For
South Carolina Department of Transportation**

October 1, 2007

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South Carolina Department of Transportation

Introduction

In September 2004, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published updates to the work zone regulations at 23 CFR 630 Subpart J. The updated rule is referred to as the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule (The Rule) and applies to all state and local governments that receive Federal-aid highway funding. Transportation agencies are required to comply with the provisions of The Rule by October 12, 2007.

The revisions of the regulations broaden the former requirements to better address work zone issues due to growing congestion and the increasing need to perform rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the existing highway network. The Rule requires state transportation agencies to develop an agency-level work zone safety and mobility policy that provides a decision-making framework to facilitate comprehensive consideration of work zone impacts throughout all stages of project development and during the construction phase of the project.

The Policy for Work Zone Safety and Mobility (The Policy) for the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will require participation from all internal offices involved in the project development process as well as various entities outside of the SCDOT. The Policy requires consideration of innovative methods that may minimize impacts and improve mobility as well as improve safety throughout the project development process. Innovative methods may include but are not limited to design-build, A + B bidding, lane rental, etc. Also, the SCDOT will consider new technologies and alternative construction methods to reduce impacts when feasible.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation will implement The Policy as directed by the document, **“Rule on Work Zone Safety and Mobility - Implementation, Maintenance, and Safety Guidelines”**, latest edition.

**The Policy
for
Work Zone Safety and Mobility**

The South Carolina Department of Transportation will coordinate with the Federal Highway Administration to develop and implement strategies to maximize safety and mobility and minimize hazards and traffic delays in and around work zones on the South Carolina state highway system. Safety and mobility related to highway work zones will be a primary focus during all SCDOT roadway projects. Safety of the highway workers and motorists and mobility of the traveling public through the work zone will be essential through all phases of each project, from planning through conclusion of the work. The SCDOT will utilize input from internal as well as external entities to implement this policy. The SCDOT will conduct evaluations of the efforts to minimize work zone impacts and performance assessments of the transportation management plans to determine the adequacy and necessity for revisions of work zone policies, practices, and procedures.

Goals and Objectives of The Policy

The goals and objectives of this policy are as follows:

- **Goal:** Improve mobility through highway work zones.

Objective: Minimize highway work zone induced traffic delays by maintaining hourly prohibition restrictions for lane closures, shoulder closures, and temporary road closures. Consider design alternatives to maintain vehicular capacity and innovative highway technology such as intelligent transportation systems (ITS) to reduce delays and improve mobility when feasible.

- **Goal:** Reduce work zone related vehicular crashes, injuries and fatalities of the motoring public.

Objective: Utilize law enforcement in work zones on high volume corridors to enforce the traffic laws and provide emergency assistance. Maintain an incident response plan for the interstate system. Maintain a public information program to provide work zone information notices and inform the public of the dangers within highway work zones. Consider intelligent transportation systems (ITS) to provide real-time information.

- **Goal:** Reduce work zone worker accidents.

Objective: Implement a highway safety training program for all highway workers responsible for installation and maintenance of a highway work zone, including SCDOT, contractors, utilities, municipalities, counties, etc. Develop and implement a certification program to complement the highway safety training program for all persons responsible for flagging and for the installation and maintenance of highway work zones. Develop and implement rules and regulations and conduct periodic evaluations to ensure the effectiveness of the certification program.

- **Goal:** Collect work zone field data for evaluation to determine the necessity for revisions to improve work zone processes and procedures.

Objective: Establish Project Review Teams to conduct field reviews of 3 significant projects annually. The members of the Project Review teams will represent entities directly impacted by the projects. The Project Review Teams shall submit reports, including observations and evaluations and recommendations for improvement, to the Policy Review Team.

NOTE: Specific numeric performance measures may be found in the SCDOT/FHWA Strategic Plan and in the annual individual business plans of responsible offices.